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Title: Need to enter into social security pact with Gulf Countries to protect the interests of Indian workers.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (RAMPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would thank you for giving me this chance to speak.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members and the Government should also react to this. This is a very serious matter. This is about the problems being faced by the workers working abroad. Thousands of workers are going abroad to work there in order to earn money to support the families, to make the livelihood, to improve their condition. The condition, the scenario abroad is totally different. A majority of the workers who are going abroad is the poorest of the poor. Particularly, thousands of people are going to the Gulf countries with so much hope of getting a better job so that they can support the families in India. They are leaving the family, children and everybody. They are going there and working. After going there, they are harassed by the employers. The recruiting agents are giving the assurance that they are going to give jobs there. The agents in India are coming out with the names of bogus companies. So, many people are suffering. Once they reach abroad, there is no job and, in fact, no such companies are available there. So, the people who are there are in a panic condition. They have to compromise with the working condition. They are going for low wages also. I think the Government has not done any survey regarding how many people are going there from here? How many bogus companies have been identified so far? Once they are going, the harassment is more, the work load is more and the compulsion is more. The employers are increasing the working hours but they are not paying a single pie. This information is in the print media.

During the past 8-9 months, about 250 Indians died there. But there is no information in what circumstances they died. They are showing very unusual, very unnatural reasons. What is the reason for the deaths? So, I would request the Government to react to this.

It is not only this. About the extension of the social security package with the Belgium and the European countries, what have they done about the agreement? I want a clarification from the Government. Are they going to have a similar kind of a package or agreement with the Gulf countries also? If it is so, when are they going to come out with the agreement? What is the time frame? Further, when people collapse or die abroad, in the Gulf countries, bringing the bodies becomes very difficult. The families are in agony. The system is very difficult to bring the bodies also. So, that has to be simplified.

Then, I would request only one thing. The Indian Embassy has to act as a functionary or custodian. In the UAE, the High Commissioner should also act as a custodian and things should be simplified. The Government should give security to the people who are working abroad, who are going from India.

Sir, I want some assurance and some reaction from the Government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not immediate. Shri P. Karunakaran to associate with this matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, my name may be associated with this matter.â€¦ (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to associate with it? All right. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma.

...(*Interruptions*)

ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, though you, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications who is also present here....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with this matter. The main issue which has come to my notice is the problem being faced by the passengers who are coming from the Gulf countries. The recent hike in air fares of Air India and Indian Airlines has affected them most. So, it should be reduced.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with this matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to associate myself with this matter.